

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 06238 200809Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05
CA-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EPA-01 /063 W
-----056775 211004Z /14
R 191211Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8509

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 6238

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, NI
SUBJECT: ALHADJI'S MIDNIGHT RIDE

1. AFTER HOSTING WITH CHARM AND FISCAL ABANDON A CHINESE RESTAURANT DINNER LAST NIGHT FOR EPA DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BARBARA BLUM, ALHADJI ABUBAKAR ALHADJI DROVE ME TO THE AIRPORT TO SEEK OUT MS. BLUM'S ERRANT GARMENT BAG. THE BUREAU WILL REMEMBER ALHADJI AS THE ALTERNATELY IRASCIBLE AND ENGAGING PERMANENT SECRETARY OF INDUSTRIES WHO SO ABLY CHAIRED THE NIGERIANS SIDE IN THE RECENT BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.

2. WE FAILED TO LOCATE THE BAG--ALTHOUGH ALHADJI TERRORIZED THE CUSTOMS AND POLICE PERSONNEL STILL ON DUTY AT MIDNIGHT AND PROMISED TO RATTLE THE CAGES OF THE NIGERIA AIRWAYS GENERAL MANAGER AND THE COMMISSIONER OF CIVIL AVIATION IN THE MORNING-- IF HE COULD MAKE HIS TELEPHONE WORK.

3. MORE IMPORTANT WERE THE FOLLOWING NUGGETS OF INFORMATION GLEANED IN THE COURSE OF A 25-MINUTE, 50 MPH SPIN EACH WAY IN ALHADJI'S MERCEDES 280-S:

A. HE BRIEFED OBASANJO YESTERDAY ON THE RESULTS OF THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC TALKS. TOMORROW HE WILL SEE HIM AGAIN AND PRESENT THE AGREED JOINT REPORT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 06238 200809Z

B. OBASANJO'S HIGHLY GRATIFIED BY THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS. HE INTENDS TO APPOINT A COMMISSIONER, AS YET UNSPECIFIED, TO HANDLE ALL FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS INCLUDING "MEETING AND GREETING "USG TEAMS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, WHO COME TO NIGERIA TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENTS MADE DURING THE TALKS. WHEN I QUERIED ALHADJI ON HOW THIS WOULD ACTUALLY WORK, HE ADMITTED THAT HE, PERHAPS ASSISTED BY OTHER PERMANENT SECRETARIES,

WOULD IN FACT BE USUALLY THE FIRST POINTS OF CONTACT FOR FOLLOW-UP PURPOSES, BUT OBASANJO WANTED TO HIGHLIGHT HIS OWN COMMITMENT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP BY RAISING THE LEVEL OF ATTENTION THAT THE DIALOGUE COULD RECEIVE IN THE FMG. ALHADJI SAID WE WOULD BE INFORMED OF THIS DECISION IN WRITING IN DUE COURSE. WE COULD THEN WORK OUT THE NECESSARY MODALITIES TOGETHER.

C. HE HAD KEPT HIS COMMITMENT TO RAISE THE CONSULAR ACCESS QUESTION WITH THE HEAD OF STATE. OBASANJO HAD SAID HE "WOULD LOOK INTO IT." (SOUND FAMILIAR?)

D. HE HAD BEEN DRIVING IN LAGOS SINCE 1963 AND HAD NEVER TOUCHED ANYONE YET. HE HAD BOUGHT HIS MERCEDES TWO YEARS AGO FROM CHIEF OF STAFF YAR-ADUA. "I DON'T HAVE TO SHARE HIS LOWPROFILE--BUT I DRIVE MYSELF WHEN I GO HOME TO SOKOTO BECAUSE I DRIVE BETTER THAN THE CHAUFFEURS." (HE IS RIGHT.) HE THEN PRESSED TWO BUTTONS. ONE SLID BACK THE SUN ROOF TO FLOOD US WITH THE GLORIOUS LAGOS MOON. THE OTHER GAVE US "BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERS" IN STEREO.
EASUM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LAGOS06238
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780213-1222
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780541/aaaabhxr.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a4458c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2640035
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALHADJI'S MIDNIGHT RIDE
TAGS: EGEN, NI, (ABUBAKAR ALHADJI, ALHADJI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a4458c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014